(1927)

Villa Corsica

Feb 13

The piece of news which has engrossed me to the exclusion of all others is that you have taken to the theatre — can it be true? Duncan & Angelica say me tell you not to — that it is dangerous & disobey her. Which is no doubt true. Well. I suppose I can't really tell till I see you. You will say. but I shall be surprised if it results in greater richness of time in the end. apart from appearances.

Can't make him feel really unscrupulous enough to prefer Italian life for ever unless it's suffering from it. I give him up
VB

(1927)

Villa Corsica

Feb 13

The piece of news which has
engrossed me to the exclusion
of all others is that you
have taken to the stage—
can it be true? Duncan
& I are utterly stupified
& Angelica says she will
not to & that it is
dangerous to disobey her.
which is no doubt true.
Well, I suppose I can't
really tell till I see
you. You will say. but I
shall be surprised if it
leads to greater leisure
& economy of time in
the end. apart from
appearances.

can't write him / feel really unequal to / suffering / his / news—Anyway / prefers / Helen / I'll write him up / V

I put it down, I daresay
unjustly, to Vita's influence.
But I've seen it coming
for some time. Wish you,
I wonder, advise me to?
& do likewise? & I shall!

As for the parakeets.
Clive wrote me a long letter
to say he was coming. He
told me his story was quite
uninteresting as it contained
no facts only feelings. But
he would tell me more
when he saw me - He said
he was less unhappy but
not very happy, that he
neither missed nor felt
what he had imagined, &
that all he wanted was peace

& an opportunity to work
in the country. Perhaps
you will see Mary. It would
be interesting to know how
she takes it. I think
possibly she may be recalled
& may realize a separation
at any rate for a time is
inevitable. I daresay they
settle down again the same
as ever after it. Unless
he really has got bored &
the affair is at last dying
a natural death, which
seems to me inevitable in
their case sooner or later.

I shall I suppose lose some
amusement if you don't go
to America (then why should?)

but still I'm glad. If you come here I will get you housing of some kind - we can decide later when you're more definite. Anyhow it might be perfect by then.

We haven't explored the country much yet. In fact it's not very easy to do so. But I daresay we shall when Duncan is stronger. He still gets easily tired. I think family life is very exhausting as it means a good deal of social life too. But it would cause hurt feelings if he came & I lived here, so it must go on till the family leaves. I hope in about a fortnight. Please tell Roger if you see him that I am still alive & tell him I read his last letter & he was cutting as ever

T. PARSONS - 3.2.73

Villa Corsica
Cassis. Feb 22.

My Baby.

I am sorry I wrote as if I were depressed. No. I'm not things I must say I shall be rather glad when the McNeil household breaks up. It is doing so sooner than was intended. The Penroses suddenly announced that they meant to return at once. Mrs Dunn had thought she could keep the house another 3 months if she liked & had meant to stay another fortnight & then hand it over to me. As usual in these friendly lets there was a misunderstanding. Put down to Valentine. Mrs Penrose. The Rascibles whose. who, everyone says has captured Roland. & who

is almost universally disliked.
Anyhow they are coming back.
on Saturday. rather a the
general upset of Aunt Daisy
Mrs Grant & Miss Elves. who
are scattered. It's also rather
a my upset - as I can't
have the house. or the studio.
That is really the only use.
some part - of it as I think
I can get the lower part of
the house which is now ready
for habitation. We shall not
have a studio. but there are
3 good rooms downstairs.
Clive can live here if he
likes. & also Duncan. &
we shall have room for you
if you don't come at the
same time as your nephews.
So it will be all right I
hope & we must do without

a studio.
I shall be very glad to have some grown up educated companions of air - which I haven't had since Charlotte early in January - not to live with that is to say. Angelica is so intelligent & vivacious that she's much better than most grown ups in many ways. But of course no child however charming can be talked to equally. Since we have been here I have had practically to live with Grace - she has had all her meals with us, generally alone with me in the evening, as it seemed too absurd for her to keep in my room & then have her own rather late in the nursery room. But it is curious - they're extraordinarily nice & free from any of the

[illegible] some qualities I mean
of my friends, she is, like
all the uneducated com-
pletely empty-headed reds
& after a bit it gets terribly
on one's nerves. She either
asks me questions, which it
is obvious she could answer
as well as I can, or she
tells me things she has
already told me dozens
of times about the Haslams.
One has practically no ground
in common - I am rather
interested to see what does
happen with the lower classes
as Grace is a very good
specimen, not only unusually
nice, but much more ready
than most to try to understand
other things, reading all she
can get hold of & making
desperate efforts towards culture.

But there's something I suppose even in having educated grandparents. For already Angelica is capable of understanding things in a way one can see Grace never will. However my inquiries into the lower class mind will come to an end in a few days now I'm glad to say. For I shall relegate her to the kitchen & air when Duncan comes here.

It has of course been rather tantalizing too to see so little of him alone. as when one is working one can't enjoy desultory gossip — this you don't believe — But he's only once, last night, been able to come up here alone, in the even & then only for a short time.

Otherwise I have seen him only at work or surrounded by the ladies. Still, he's really getting quite strong again I think. which is the great thing -

I wish both you all I can unscrupulously, when Clive comes if indeed I hear anything. But I suspect its all rather dull now. I imagine things had been getting difficult for some time. There was the episode of the spirit supper party you remember & other things of the kind I think showed it - then I suppose there was a crisis. & now I imagine probably both have decided on a separation for a time at any rate - I think Ray may manage to whistle him back in a month or two. & probably if he leads a quiet, chaste existence here for a bit. shell have no difficulty. I agree with you in a certain respect for her determination. though I think it also implies a good deal of denseness & want of sensitiveness. But I expect shell get her way. Anyway I wish both you all I have & both in reward for your indiscretions to me.

Clive seems to think you look young - & neat!

So I suppose I must accept the general opinion. Duncan says however that he'll give me up altogether for marrying me if I do like mine. My hair was beginning coming down all the evening & I feel very tempted. I have always thought redness was the quality to aim at in middle age. & here I am, as you say, the worse for wear and untidy.

Do you think you will be able to do I see Quentin soon? The wretch hardly ever writes. But I suppose he's all right. Don't bother if you already have too much to do.

I don't think Bunny's book is very good. But at least it's

not so bad as Eddies. which
has seem to me farcically
bad. I mean the Ruin. I
haven't read the that which
may be better. Will the
Lighthouse be worse than
either? I expect you think
so. But will you please
take an order, I'm one for
two copies? Did I tell
you that Julian gave me
some criticisms on your
writing? I told him he'd
better tell you. So perhaps
he will. I think you
had better not get too
much involved with Roger
Senhouse who is I think
incredibly boring.
far more so than poor Philip
but not really much more
attractive. His good looks
quickly pall. at least I
think so

He's a harmless creature of
course & very well meaning.
only empty. headed to a
degree. Why has Lytton
fallen back in him after
all these years?

I write my next letter
very here more of interest
to tell you. Not that I
really expect much. even
if Clive comes. which I rather
feel sure of till I see him.

But please in any case
write to me

Yours VW

Villa Corsica.
Cassis
March 2

My Billy.
I expect you are longing for a letter from me. I feel that I can flatter myself that my letters have any great interest of their own but I dare say you hope for news of Clive affairs. I'm afraid however I have practically none to give which is very disappointing. I'll tell you all I can. But I warn you to expect nothing. When he arrived he seemed to me altogether changed. very subdued & depressed & quiet. He was rather upset because the Candlers could give him a room in the hotel. But had taken one

for him nearly & the room up here wasn't ready. The first night he was here Duncan gave a farewell party to his family at the Candlers & we all went to Wyndham Tryon's studio afterwards. Clive came & seemed to me gloomy but quite amiable. The next night Duncan had gone to London to see his mother off. So Clive dined here alone with me - I wasn't sure if he wanted to talk or not. But I thought not & so didn't like to begin. He said something at last about plans. How long he meant to stay here etc. So I asked him why he hadn't come out at first - He then told me that the reason was that Mary had begged him not to. But that it was a

long story which he would tell me some day but not then. He said that his relations with Mary had got so complicated that it had seemed to him that the only thing to do was to separate for a time & see what happened. & that he had come away too. & Florence. That was all he told me & he hasn't said a word since. He is much more cheerful however: in fact very cheerful. Luckily we had 3 or 4 days of absolutely perfect weather. He sate on the verandah & read & wrote all day. He comes up here early in the morning about 9.30 & spends the day here. The lower part of the house is said to be ring for him by the end of the week. so he will soon have his own study & an absolutely quiet room & be very well & we have taken a

knew before. I expect some day he will tell me more about it but meanwhile we will probably know nothing - However I think it's obvious what the situation is. & that it's pretty much what we thought. The only question is what he feels & intends - Has he really come to an end of the affair or does he mean it to go on & will he get him back again. I suspect that it will really be a great relief to him not to have to play up to her all the time & that he'll get perfectly happy without her. But I think if he wants to she can probably recapture him in a few months' time when he'll have had a long period of chastity.

I hear that you are going to

Greece with Regan instead of to America. Is this true? & are you coming here first? If so do let me know in good time as one has to arrange with the Centuilles weeks ahead. especially for at Easter. I can't be sure of room here - as I don't know how many of the downstairs rooms are going to be furnished nor how they are to be furnished. Also I daresay you'd rather be at the Centuilles as we're a family close fit here with only one small sitting room.

Anyhow please let me know soon what you'd like.

The McNeil party have gone. all but Aunt Daisy who lingers on till Friday with the Crofts. We went to an extraordinary party one night

at the house of some rather
terrible Americans called Robinson.
It was fancy dress. Because
no one in Cassis ever gives
dress & so parties always
have to be fancy dress.
Entering into Cassis society
has a certain fascination.
It's rather like reading a new
Jane Austen. One finds
oneself in a new small world
with all its characters complete
& one is completely detached
without relationships to any
of them. I'm not sure you
mightn't to come & see it.
The Crottes (as I believe they
are spelt) family, Mr Colonel &
Mrs. & the two lovely daughters.
empty headed but amiable.
Irish. Without servants. Intensely
hospitable & kind. Mrs Crotte is
an English church. but seems
otherwise open minded. When

there is Miss Bellairs, who came
for a few weeks, tumbled into
a ditch, broke her leg, was
rescued by the doctor & spent
3 months in his house. settled
here for life & drives a large
motor, in which she tells
parties all over the country &
so elses out her living. She
is rather like Ray, huge, calm,
competent, with an Etna cup
& very male, passionately in
love with Bertha Penrose &
unable to talk if anything else
for more than 3 minutes.

Jean Colonel Reed who lives
in sin with Miss Jean Campbell.
They run a farm. He is a
violent atheist & a sympathetic
character with a hatred of
respectable English middle class
ideas which made him
settle here. Miss Campbell is the
nurse who saved Bertha Penrose's
life. One would say she was
a drastic virgin if one didn't
see the contrary. Then the

Curies. half French half English
he a painter. Jhe rather nice,
merry. sociable. But its no
good giving you a catalogue
Besides perhaps you know
them all already There are
various hybrid painters. in
fact the place reeks of painters.
one meets them at every turn.
But we dont know many of
them.

Its a great relief that the
McNeils have gone & one is
able to read a book or less
civilized life again. Grace has
returned to the Kitchen & I
think you magnificent Still. it
leave less time for letter writing.
I have to look after Dupelick
a good deal. She misses Lucie
dreadfully at times poor little
girl. & also wants other
children rather badly I am
afraid. Its difficult to know
what to do about it Grace is

I wonder if you've been
able to go & see Quentin
yet. The weather hasn't
been suitable. But I hope
that means he's having en-
tertained.

Do you see the Fry much?
& the Keyes?

Duncan says he thinks
every day of writing to you &
me day. he will. But he's
rather frightened & during so.
He's been having a bad throat
& cold which is tiresome for
afraid his illness has left
him rather liable & them.

Please write I am badly
in want of a letter

Yours V.B

not nearly as good with children as mine. & of course there are no other English children. I see it is one of the great difficulties in the way of bringing a child abroad & if one wants to one can't I shall have to try to find some way round it.

Thank you for sending the cuttings. I wish I could understand the one about me but I don't know what is meant by substance in a picture. However I daresay it's good advertisement. Only I'm afraid, as far as I've heard, my show is a failure as to sales. I should be very glad of criticisms however when you have time. Time. When does the Lighthouse come out? I am hoping to read it.

Villa Corsica

March 5

My Billy

Also in business in Nice.

I don't know Stewart Bracis address (nor does Clive) nor can I understand whether they want the original design which you have sent - or one of the printed copies. If one of these, why didn't you send it straight to them? Anyhow, could you, if they're in a hurry, send them either the original or a copy or tell me what to do?

Or do they want me
to do another version
of the original. as I
did I think in the
case of the Common
Reader & Mrs Dalloway.
In any case is there one
but as I don't know
their address I can't
do anything without
further Directions.
The Raccolta says could
of course come back
& we can leave them about
the place. & if they
like the results of it
I could perhaps get
them a flat like this

or the Candidates is
quite good + save
trouble. Ill write
again - & please
write too. For I
have had no letters
for ages - except
from Faith whose
me might spot you
soon I fear -
I, it true that
Lydia was here?
at Cambridge.

Love VB

the Countess Brace about when I see you. I think I was rather rude but I simply scan them. The Villa Corsica (1927)
covers with ink alterations. I suppose they can put in their Cassis March 15
own name. I find them
dis tetre. Write to me rather than to subscribers next. Dupuy never
Pay is Billy. writes either - is he contented with the new arrangements

You must put this extraordinary paper & pen
down to the fact that Duncan has walked off with
my own paper & pen & I must take what I can get.
You really ought to be touched if you know how
glad I was to get a letter from you at last. Of which
I had practically given up hope. As for Roger he
hasn't written to me for about 3 weeks & I am seriously
beginning to wonder whether I have done anything to
enrage him or what has happened. But I suppose
it's only that he's too busy.

A room has been taken for you at the Condulen
- a large one with 2 beds is much easier to get
than 2 single ones, so I hope you won't mind that.
I'm afraid its impossible to have a sitting room there -
but you will be very welcome here. & if only it's fine
there's plenty of room here now that we have the
whole house - as there are two verandahs & a
sitting room downstairs which is almost ready.
I must admit that the weather has been rather
awful lately. Either torrents of rain or a gale of
wind. & today hail stones & a water spout -
to the great excitement of Grace & all the inhabitants
of Cassis. Perhaps it will improve with April.
Sicily sounds very nice. & I daresay you were wise not
to visit Greece with Rose - I must say I doubted the
wisdom of that plan. I believe she'd have driven you
into an asylum & Lomax after you. & you
may as well wait with Rose here.

T. DARLOW 3/27

We went today to lunch with Col. Read & Mrs Campbell
It was rather fascinating. as they live in a most lovely old
farm & grow vines & we saw all the arrangements for
making wine & which we hope to have a barrel for Christmas
They're a sympathetic couple & live in open sin in the most
respectable manner, he having left a wife in India. They
have furniture of the kind I imagine you want. large old
chests of drawers & cupboards of Provencal make. We
found rather a good shop in Cavaillon by the way where I
believe you could get things quite cheap.
I was very grateful for the papers & for Belle of
Bohemia whose photographs are fascinating. Your account
of Serre filled me with horror he really sounds too
awful now. Why has he come on the Tapis again so
much? We had rather a scare about Ray who
turned up at Roquebrune, when Mrs Grant & Aunt Daisy
were staying, on her way back with the Huxleys. But D.
wrote & Bruce & Pinker joined very timely & took her
& I think she might not be able to resist coming &
snatch Clive from Paris. But the haunt appeared
so I suppose the danger is over. He seems quite
cheerful though the weather has been rather trying.
& is actually working quite hard. Nothing more has
been said about his affairs. I wonder if you will see her
& learn more than me — or perhaps Mrs. Lytton —
I wrote & Molly & asked if I could help about rooms &
& suggested the Pensions here which will be closed again
in April. I think they do very well & take it
as its much nicer being in a little than a hotel
for 2 months & is probably rather different & finds a
home elsewhere. Everything would be very easy for them
there & Desmond could sit in the garden & do writing
to any extent. It would be quite cheap too. I think you
would like it if you saw them. I also wrote to